

Leadership Biographies: USNS Mercy, USNS Comfort 2020

USNS Mercy



CAPTAIN Dan Cobian
Commander, Destroyer Squadron 21

CAPT Dan Cobian is a native of San Diego. Enlisting as an Electronics Technician (Submarine) in 1988, he served onboard USS HADDOCK (SSN 621) where he was accepted into the BOOST commissioning program. He graduated in 1996 from the University of San Diego with a Bachelors degree in Business Economics and later from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, where he earned a Masters in Financial Management.

Sea tours include Auxiliaries and Electrical Officer in USS FORT FISHER (LSD 40), Main Propulsion Assistant and Fire Control Officer in USS PRINCETON (CG 59), Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer in USS STETHEM (DDG 63) and Executive Officer and Commanding Officer in USS SPRUANCE (DDG 111).

Ashore, CAPT Cobian has served as the Executive Assistant to the Director, Maritime Domain Awareness (OPNAV N5MDA), Executive Assistant to the Director, Strategy and Policy (OPNAV N5), and then as the Navy Fellow at RAND Corporation in Washington DC (Federal Executive Fellowship Program), Deputy Executive Assistant, Flag Secretary and Flag Aide to the Commander at Commander Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet; and as the Headquarters N5 (Doctrine and Tactics) Branch Head and then Executive Assistant to the Commander Naval Surface and Mine Warfare Development Center (SMWDC).

CAPT Cobian's personal awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), Navy Commendation Medal (3 awards), Navy Achievement Medal (4 awards), and various campaign and unit awards.



CAPTAIN Jonathan Olmsted
Civil Service Master
USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)

CAPT Jonathan Olmsted hails from the San Francisco Bay Area. He graduated from California Maritime Academy and joined Military Sealift Command in 1996.

CAPT Olmsted began his sea career as an Able Seaman (deckhand) and Third Officer aboard ammunition ship Kilauea, followed by replenishment oiler Pecos. In 1998 he served as Second Officer (navigator) aboard oiler Guadalupe. From 1999 to 2003 his tour of duty aboard ammunition ship Flint as Cargo Officer included two Arabian Gulf combat deployments in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

As First Officer (civilian XO) aboard fast combat support ship Rainier, CAPT Olmsted helped convert the former Navy vessel to MSC operation and assisted with the Navy's immediate aid to Indonesian tsunami victims in 2005. He also served as First Officer aboard oiler Pecos, ocean tug Navajo, and salvage ships Grasp and Salvor.

Since 2007 CAPT Olmsted has commanded seventeen MSC ships in the Pacific, Far East, Atlantic, Caribbean, and Arabian Gulf: Ocean tugs (ATF) Catawba and Navajo; ammunition ships (AE) Flint and Kiska; replenishment oilers (AO) Henry J. Kaiser, John Ericsson, Pecos, Tippecanoe, and Yukon; dry cargo/ammunition ships (AKE) Richard E. Byrd, Carl Brashear, Wally Schirra, Matthew Perry, and Washington Chambers; and both hospital ships (AH) MERCY and COMFORT.

From 2014 to 2017 he was the original "Plankowner" Master of USS Lewis B. Puller, the Navy's first Expeditionary Sea Base (ESB). In 2018 CAPT Olmsted joined USS Michael Monsoor (DDG-1001) on her maiden voyage from Maine to San Diego, CA.

CAPT Olmsted has received the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award, two Merchant Marine Outstanding Achievement Medals, and several unit and expeditionary awards for his contributions at sea, including eight Arabian Gulf deployments and six humanitarian missions.



**CAPTAIN John Rotruck
Commanding Officer
Medical Treatment Facility USNS Mercy (T-AH 19)**

CAPT John R. Rotruck is the Commanding Officer, Medical Treatment Facility USNS MERCY (T-AH 19). He was commissioned in the Navy Medical Corps in 1996 after obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Biology and his Medical Degree, both from the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. He eventually received his MBA from the same institution.

Upon entering the Navy, he completed an internship in Internal Medicine at the National Naval Medical Center, followed by a tour as a General Medical Officer for the Marine Corp's 3rd Force Service Support Group, Okinawa, Japan. While there he deployed to Korea in support of Operation Ulchi Focus Lens, and throughout Southeast Asia as the Medical Officer for Landing Force Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training aboard the USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD 43) in 1998.

After flight surgery training, he reported for his assignment to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 266 at MCAS New River, Jacksonville, North Carolina. While completing a successful deployment with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit aboard the USS KEARSARGE (LHD 3) as the Landing Force Sixth Fleet in 2001, he qualified as a Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer. Afterwards, he went to NAS Whiting Field, Milton, Florida, as the Flight Surgeon for Helicopter Training Squadron EIGHT, and eventually as the Senior Flight Surgeon for Training Air Wing FIVE.

CAPT Rotruck then completed his Anesthesiology residency at the National Capital Consortium in Bethesda, Maryland, followed by a fellowship in Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. After this training, he returned to the National Naval Medical Center to serve as the Chief of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology.

Following a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as the Assistant Officer- in-Charge of a Forward Surgical Team, his colleagues elected him to be the President of the Medical Staff at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He went on to serve as the Executive Assistant to the Director of the Medical Center, the Assistant Chief of Staff, and finally the Chief of Staff prior to assuming his current duties.

He is an active member of the Uniformed Services Society of Anesthesiologists and a Fellow of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. He is also a Clinical Associate Professor of Anesthesiology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

USNS Comfort



CAPTAIN Patrick K. Amersbach
Commanding Officer
USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20)

CAPT Amersbach is a native of Bowie, Maryland. He earned his Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Hawaii Pacific University and Graduate Degrees in Executive Nursing from the University of San Diego, and Strategic Studies and International Policy from the Naval War College. Additionally he earned his Doctorate from George Washington University in Health Policy and Care Delivery.

CAPT Amersbach joined the Navy under the Bachelor's Degree Completion Program in 1991 after serving eight years as a Staff Sergeant in the Military Police. Once commissioned as an Ensign in 1994 he reported to Bremerton Naval Hospital in Washington where he served in both clinical and leadership roles at the command. In 1998 he transferred to the Administrative Support Unit Southwest Asia, Manama, Bahrain where he was assigned as a Division Officer and the Medical Liaison to host nation medical facilities and in support of U.S. forces operating in the Fifth Fleet area of responsibility.

Returning to CONUS in 1999 he was reassigned to Naval Hospital Oak Harbor, Washington where he served in various clinical and leadership roles at the command as well as managing the hospital's Emergency Management Program. In 2003 CAPT Amersbach began his assignment at Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCS D) as the Division Officer of Unit 5 North. Shortly after arrival he deployed with the Marines to Iraq as the Officer in Charge of the Evacuation Platoon, Alpha Surgical Company, 1st Medical Battalion, I MEF (REIN). Post deployment he returned to NMCS D where he was selected for DUINS and attended the University of San Diego until 2008.

After graduation CAPT Amersbach reported to Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, California and was selected as the Department Head for the 52 Area Branch Health Clinic, School of Infantry (West) where he supervised the medical care, clinical support services and field medical coverage for the staff and Marine students at the training command. While at Camp Pendleton he was also selected as the Director of Branch Clinics where he led 7 geographically separated clinics across California and Arizona in the provision of care to Sailors, Marines and their families. In 2011 he returned to NMCS D as the Senior Nurse Officer of the Emergency Department prior to being selected as the Officer in Charge, Naval Branch Health Clinic, Naval Base San Diego where he oversaw the delivery of medical and dental services to Sailors, families, and fleet forces personnel.

In 2014 CAPT Amersbach transferred to the Defense Health Agency, Fall Church, Virginia as the chief military advisor to clinical support systems and Project Manager to a portfolio of Information Technology systems for the Military Health System. He was also the Government lead agent for the development of a Joint DoD and Veterans Administration credentialing and privileging application.

CAPT Amersbach served as the Executive Officer at Naval Hospital Twentynine Palms, California where he lead multi-dimensional operations for the command and health care delivery to 24,000 beneficiaries located at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, its branch clinics located at the Naval Air Weapons Test Center, China Lake and the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, California.

CAPT Amersbach reported as the Commanding Officer of the USNS Comfort (T-AH20) Military Treatment Facility in July 2019.

CAPT Amersbach's military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2 awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4 awards), the Army Achievement Medal (2 awards), various campaign, unit and service awards and the Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Wings.



CAPTAIN Joseph "OB" O'Brien
Commodore Amphibious Squadron SIX

CAPT Joseph O'Brien, a native of New Jersey, graduated with merit from the United States Naval Academy in 1993. At the completion of flight training in 1995 he was designated a Naval Aviator and reported to the "Airwolves" of HSL-40 for SH-60B fleet replacement pilot training. In 1996 he reported to the HSL-42 "Proud Warriors" where he deployed as Detachment SIX Training Officer aboard USS NICHOLAS (FFG 47) and Maintenance Officer for Detachment FOUR aboard USS DEWERT (FFG 45). While not deployed, he served as Squadron Assistant Operations Officer and Quality Assurance Officer.

CAPT O'Brien reported to HSL-40 in 2000 as an SH-60B Fleet Replacement Squadron Instructor Pilot. During his tour, he served as Training Schedules Officer and Assistant Training Officer and was recognized as the Naval Helicopter Association's 2001 Instructor of the Year.

In 2002, CAPT O'Brien returned to sea duty as Assistant Air Operations Officer for Commander, Carrier Strike Group TWELVE aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65). He qualified as Flag Tactical Watch Officer and Battle Watch CAPT, deployed to the Arabian Gulf and directed combat operations across the entire CENTCOM area of responsibility.

CAPT O'Brien's next assignment was with the "Vipers" of HSL-48 where he deployed as Officer in Charge Detachment SIX in USS O'BANNON (DD 997) to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. Ashore he served as Squadron Maintenance Officer. He was subsequently ordered to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island where he earned a Master of Arts Degree in National Security Studies. Following graduation he reported to the Joint Chief's Staff in Arlington, Virginia where he served as Action Officer and the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Director for Resources and Acquisition in the J-8 directorate.

In March 2010, CAPT O'Brien assumed the duties of Executive Officer of the "Swamp Foxes" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Light FOUR FOUR (HSL-44) where he completed a transition to the MH-60R helicopter. In June 2011, CAPT O'Brien became the first Commanding Officer of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron SEVEN FOUR (HSM-74).

Following a successful command tour, CAPT O'Brien was assigned as Navigator aboard USS GEORGE H. W. BUSH (CVN 77) where he deployed to the Arabian Sea and Arabian Gulf supporting combat operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. He reported to USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) as Executive Officer in April of 2016 and assumed command in September 2017. Following a successful tour on IWO JIMA which included multiple Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief operations, a deployment to the Fifth Fleet AOR and the return of amphibious operations to the high north with exercise

TRIDENT JUNCTURE, CAPT O'Brien took command of Amphibious Squadron SIX/KEARSARGE Amphibious Ready Group on deployment in April 2019.

CAPT O'Brien's awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various campaign, unit, and service awards. He has logged more than 2,500 flight hours and hundreds of small deck landings in the SH-60B and MH-60R.



**COMMANDER Kerry Ann Hudson
Medical Corps, USN
Acting Executive Officer
USNS COMFORT T-AH 20**

A native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, CDR Hudson graduated as a Secretary of the Navy Distinguished Graduate from the United States Naval Academy in 1999, earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in Weapons and Systems Engineering. She graduated from the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (USUHS) with a Doctorate of Medicine in 2003. Dr. Hudson completed post-graduate training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, completing residency in 2007. She is board certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

From 2007 to 2012, Dr. Hudson served as a staff obstetrician-gynecologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), formerly known as National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda. While there, she served for almost two years as the Third Year Medical Student Clerkship Director for Ob/Gyn at USUHS. Additionally, for four years, she ran the United States Naval Academy Internship Program at WRNMMC. While stationed at WRNMMC, Dr. Hudson deployed for nine months as an Individual Augment, serving with the U.S. Army in Kabul, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, from September 2008 through April 2009.

Dr. Hudson's next tour returned her to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, in Portsmouth, Virginia, where she served from August 2012 through July 2019. In April 2015, she deployed in support of Continuing Promise 2015 on the USNS Comfort. In August 2016, Dr. Hudson assumed the role of Head, Operational Fleet Liaison Medical Services. In 2016, she also assumed the role as the Medical Director for the asynchronous virtual health platform Health Experts onLine Portal (HELP).

In July 2019, CDR Hudson assumed her current job as the Officer in Charge of Medical Readiness Division (MRD), Norfolk, at SURFLANT (CNSL). She also concurrently serves as the Deputy Force Surgeon for SURFLANT.

Her personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), and various other service and campaign awards.